

BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

OBD II UPDATE TRAINING FACT SHEET

Frequently asked questions regarding BAR's OBD II update training course.

October 31, 2000

Q: What is OBD II update training?

A: *BAR has the authority to require license applicants (initial and renewal), to attend update training on new automotive technology, **prior** to filing an application for a smog technician license. In 1996, all vehicle manufacturers were required to adopt a new engine performance computer operating system called On-Board Diagnostics II (OBD II). To successfully inspect and repair these vehicles, Smog Check technicians need to be trained on this system.*

Q: Who is required to take this update course?

A: *All initial or renewal applicants who are applying or renewing either a "Basic" (EB), or an "Advanced Emission Specialist"(EA) smog technician license.*

Q: When does the OBD II update course requirement start?

A: *The update course requirement starts February 1, 2001 for initial applicants. All new smog technician applicants, whose applications are postmarked after January 31, 2001, must have completed this course. Applicants must enclose proof of course completion when filing an application.*

*For all currently licensed smog technicians, both Basic (EB) and Advanced Emission Specialist (EA) license technicians, whose licenses **expire after January 31, 2001**, must provide proof of course completion when filing a renewal application.*

Q: Where can a technician receive this training course?

A: *Most of BAR's certified training institutions throughout the state will be offering this course. A technician needing training should contact schools directly regarding course availability. A list of BAR certified schools can be found at BAR's Smog Check web site: www.smogcheck.ca.gov or by calling our Consumer Information Center: (800) 952-5210.*

Q: How long is the course, and how much will it cost?

A: *The minimum course length is 20 hours, but it may be longer. The cost for the course varies from under \$50.00 to above \$350.00. Public schools (community colleges, etc.) usually offer less costly courses, but they may not be available as often.*

Q: If a technician, whose license expires after January 31, 2001, applies to takes the examination early, do they still have to complete the course?

A: *Yes. The determining factor here is when the license **expires**, not when a technician applies for renewal of a license. If the EB or EA license expires after 1/31/01, the OBD II update course is required for renewal of the license.*

Q: Can I challenge the course by taking a challenge test without attending an OBD II class?

A: *Yes. You may take a '**one time**' challenge test, at a BAR certified school, in lieu of taking the course. If you pass the exam, the instructor will provide you with proof of course completion. Proof of course completion must be submitted when filing an initial or renewal application. Both initial and renewal applicants may take this examination.*

Q: Who can I contact to obtain one of the BAR certified OBD II textbooks to study for the challenge test?

A: *Textbook vendors: C.I.A.T at (760) 471-9848, NAPA at (800) 292-6428, JENDHAM INC. at (888) 536-3426, or Aspire Inc. at (800) 247-1099 ext. 134.*

For further information regarding the OBD II update course or challenge test, contact Wayne Brumett of BAR Standards and Training Branch at (916) 255-1391.